

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

16 March 1970

Mr. S. Everett Gleason
Chief, Foreign Relations Division
Historical Office
Bureau of Public Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Gleason:

On 3 November 1969 you wrote Dr. Hewlett, Chief Historian, Atomic Energy Commission, requesting his review of and clearance to print certain articles, which you forwarded in galley proof, in Foreign Relations, 1947, Volume I, General. At the end of 1969 your letter and the articles were referred to this Agency by the Director of Intelligence for the Atomic Energy Commission, as both articles involved intelligence matters within the area of responsibility of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Specifically, the articles are a 15 December 1947 Memorandum by the Director of Central Intelligence on the subject of, "Status of Russian Atomic Energy Project" and a 24 July 1947 Memorandum by the Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission to the Director of the Central Intelligence Group on the subject of, "Long Range Detection of Atomic Explosions." Both of the documents were highly classified at the time they were issued.

Since this is the first request for permission to publish documents relating to intelligence responsibilities of this Agency, we have reviewed the matter carefully from the standpoint of policy as well as security. While in general we wish to permit

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publication when it would serve a public purpose, intelligence information has certain unique implications which require the most careful attention when contemplating public revelation. Aside from the content, which may have international or policy repercussions, there is, as you know, a continuing problem of intelligence sources and methods, the protection of which is the responsibility of the Director of Central Intelligence, which may go on long after the content itself is no longer sensitive. These, therefore, add considerations which may be over and above the criteria listed in your guidelines for editorial preparation in section 1352 of the regulations you provided with your letter. For this reason, any document considered for publication which contains intelligence information of a classified nature should be most carefully reviewed by the various departments concerned, including the Central Intelligence Agency, and the final determination as to publication must be reserved to the Director of Central Intelligence or his designated representative.

With this condition in mind, there is no objection to your use of the two above-mentioned documents in Foreign Relations, 1947, Volume I, General, but this is in no way considered a precedent for permission to publish other documents containing classified intelligence information.

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Sincerely,



Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

cc: Dr. Charles H. Reichardt
Director
Division of Intelligence
Atomic Energy Commission

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